August 24th 1845
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SWIFT WRITING,

COMMONLY CALLED

SHORT HAND, &c.

Charles John Thorn
No 20 Old Square
Lincolns Inn

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SWIFT WRITING,

COMMONLY CALLED

SHORT HAND,

ON AN IMPROVED PLAN,

THE RESULT OF LONG PRACTICE,

BY

E. HODGSON,

PROFESSOR OF THAT ART FOR THIRTY YEARS,

AND MANY YEARS

SHORT-HAND WRITER TO THE SESSION AT THE OLD BAILEY.

Currant verba licet, manus est velocior illis, nondum lingua, suum dextra peregit opus.

MARTIAL.

London:

PRINTED FOR J. ST. JOHN, NO. 49, STRAND.

PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS.

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THE unexpected encouragement given to the Author of two little treatises on Short Hand has induced him to unite them in this attempt to render that pleasing and useful art more plain and simple.

Convinced as he is of the sufficiency of this plan to enable a writer to follow the most rapid speaker for a long duration, and to read his notes at any distant period with perfect facility, this new Essay makes its appearance unaccompanied by a list of benefactors, under the appellation of subscribers, its author confiding in the intelligence and impartiality of a discerning public.

Mr. HODGSON having been employed in so many important causes (including the impeachment of Mr. Hastings,) flatters himself his ability for writing and teaching this art is completely established, and takes this opportunity of returning his thanks to those professional and other gentlemen who have honored him with their patronage.

Elim-Place, Fetter-Lane.

TESTI-

TESTIMONIES

IN FAVOUR OF

SHORT-HAND.

" Dion Cassius, ascribed to Mæcenas, a *very* " *estimable invention*, (among others,) which is the " use of characters, by the antients called Notæ, " by the help of which they *wrote as fast as a man* " *could speak*, so that the discourses or harangues " of orators might be faithfully collected as they " pronounced them. Tiro, Cicero's freeman, is " generally thought to be the inventor of this *use-* " *ful and ingenious art*; perhaps Mæcenas or some " of his freemen might perfect what Tiro first " thought of."

Crevier's Life of Octavius Augustus.

" Cicero the Consul dispersed about the senate " house several expert writers, whom he had " taught to make certain figures, which did in little " and short strokes express a great many words; " till that time they had not used those they call " short-

" short-hand writings, who then first, as it is " said, laid the foundation of that art.

Plutarch's Life of Cato the Younger.

" As it is usual to take notes, the attainment " of Short Hand will give such a facility to your " labours, as to enable you to follow the *most ra-* " *pid speakers* with certainty and precision."

Letter from the late Mr. Dunning to a Student in the Temple.—See Public Advertiser, Sept. 20, 1780.

SWIFT WRITING,

COMMONLY CALLED

SHORT HAND, &c.

SHORT HAND, to answer the intention of its construction, must be brief, distinct, and easy to be acquired, its principles few, and its characters simple.

To begin properly in the search of the shortest possible expression, we must commence with a point, from which all characters flow.

The production of a point generates a line, the most simple of which is a right line. ———

A line may be varied in position, and will strike us with a different conception of it, according as it is placed, horizontally, vertically, inclined to the right hand, or inclined to the left; each of these lines may be bent into a curve

curve towards the one side or the other, and will therefore supply two curves, to instance in the horizontal and vertical lines. *(See plate No. 1 and 2.)*

The two inclined lines would also furnish four inclined curves, but, as the obliquity of a curve cannot be preserved so clearly in swift writing as that of a right line, these are rejected to avoid ambiguity.

These are all the marks which can be termed *simple*; whatever characters therefore are necessary besides these must be obtained by composition.

And as some letters occur much more frequently than others, and some of the characters are more easily formed, those that are of simplest expression should of course be applied to the letters in most frequent use: with what success this is effected will appear from the following alphabet.

The letters *A* and *E* are each represented by the inclined line to the right which is begun from the bottom.

The letter *B* is part of the foregoing line, compounded with the vertical line, and is begun from the top.

The letters *C*, *K*, and *Q*, are represented by one of the curves.

The letter *D* is the other inclined line, and begun from the top.

The

The letter *F* is a part of the upper curve of the right line, and the vertical line.

The letter *G* is its reverse, as to the situation of part of the curve; both these begin from the top.

The letter *I* is the vertical line, with the lower curve of the right line, and begins from the top.

The letter *L* is the last-described curve, and begins from the left hand.

The letter *M* is one of the curves of the vertical line, and begins at the top.

The letter *N* is the right line, and begins at the left hand.

The letters *O* and *U* are the last-mentioned line, with a part of the vertical line, and from which they begin.

The letter *P* is the curve of the right line on the top, and begins on the left hand.

N. B. Let all the half-circles be made exact, and not at all inclined to either side.

The letter *R* is compounded of the vertical line, and part of the inclined line to the right; when beginning or representing a word, it begins with the perpendicular at top, and comes up again without taking off the pen; but when joined to any of the letters, that part of the inclined line is quite sufficient.

S is

S is the letter *A* reversed, and also a small circle is often used for this letter, to join; the first to begin and end words, and is begun at top; the round *S* begins words frequently, particularly where *T* follows immediately.

The letter *T* is the vertical line, and begins at top.

V and *W* are the inclined line to the left, with a small circle at the top, at which it is begun.

A, and *E*, and *O*, and *U*, being much alike in sound, one character is used for each.

H is rejected, because not necessary to form the sound of any word.

X is rather a character than a single letter, and expressive of the composition *ks*; no word in the English language begins with it: and *Z*, which seldom occurs, and for which *S* may be substituted, is totally disregarded.

Thus the Alphabet will consist of *sixteen letters only*, which easily join. *(See plate No. 3.)*

A, E.
B.
C, K, Q.
D.
F.
G.
I, J, Y.

N.º 1.	N.º 5.	N.º 6.
N.º 2.		
N.º 3.		
N.º 4.		

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L.
M.
N.
O, U.
P.
R.
S (long,) *S* (round.)
T.
V, W.

The Vowels are to be expressed by points, where they end words; *A, E,* at top; *I, Y,* in the middle; *O, U,* at bottom, as *me, my, mo.* *(See plate No. 4.)*

The vowels in the middle of words are to be omitted, and the next sounding consonant put in their place.

EXAMPLES

Of omitting the vowels and joining the letters. *(See plate No. 5.*

Ambsn	Ambition
Bsm	Bosom
Cmsn	Commission
Dspsn	Dispensation
Etrnl	Eternal
Frtnt	Fortunate
Grmr	Grammar
Osptl	Hospital

Jckned

Jcnd	Jocund
Kndm	Kingdom
Lmntsn	Lamentation
Mntn	Mountain
Ntrl	Natural
Oprsn	Operation
Prspr	Prosper
Rmndr	Remainder
Slndr	Slander
Tmpst	Tempest
Wbrn	Wherein

The following Rules of Contraction, and Beginnings and Endings of Words, complete this part of the Plan.—(See Plate No. 6.)

A dot above to the right is *ity*,—lenity.

A touch behind is *ct* or *ck*,—instruct.

When drawn through the letter, it is *xn* or *tion*,——instruction.

The termination *ing* is expressed by the round *s*,——bring.

A dot to the left is *a* or *an*,—a man.

A dot under is *to*,—come to me.

A short stroke over is *upon* or *upon a*,—upon a man.

A short

A short stroke under is *under*,—come under.

Made longer, it is *understood*, or *understand*,——we understand.

A repetition may be expressed by a long stroke, as ſ— whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just.

Ex,	Ward.
Ab, *ob*,	the, thee, thy, they, of.
Able, *ible*,	lab, lib.
Ch, *sh*,	pub.
Sab, *sub*,	
Th,	

Number is already expressed with sufficient brevity.

The close of a period will be best noted by a small space or beginning a fresh line.

The alphabet, and also these beginnings and endings of words, and rules of contraction, with the situation of the vowels, must be all remembered; and the Pupil should be careful to make a *neat character*, and when he can expeditiously write the alphabet, with the rules, &c. (Nos. 3 and 6,) without looking at the book, he may then proceed to join the letters, (as in No. 5;) in doing which experience will soon teach him the most convenient form.

ON SYMBOLICAL AND ARBITRARY *CHARACTERS.*

THE utility of this sort of characters has been greatly questioned by many who never experienced it.—They have rejected them, not only on the ground of neatness, but also for fear of burthening the memory. Now, although it must be allowed, that, if they are too much extended by a luxuriance of playful fancy, they may serve to obscure and perplex instead of facilitating; yet, when repressed within due limits, and confined more particularly to the technical terms used in the various sciences, they undoubtedly conduce very much to the ease and accommodation of the writer.

Many persons who learn this art are neither required by profession, nor disposed by inclination, to proceed far; these are amply repaid for the small trouble they may take, in

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in keeping their memorandums and accounts, and by speedily copying any poem, or essay; whilst students of the law and other sciences receive their reward by being able to take what are commonly called *short notes* with increasing speed; but those who determine to attain the ultimate excellence of short hand will soon discover the peculiar convenience of some *well-chosen* characters, not so numerous as to burthen the memory. The Pupil, however, is requested to observe that he need not look at one of those which follow without he pleases, those rules already given being amply sufficient for every purpose of swift writing, and that it is in the nature of *relief alone* that *any* of these characters may be adapted.

The following short account of the Authors who have written on this subject is added for the information of any who may be unacquainted with the history of short hand, since the revival of letters in this country. In what high estimation it was held at those periods and places when every polite art attained the most consummate perfection will be readily seen from the histories of those times.—

Every observation on the comparative merit of these systems is purposely withheld; one general observation, however, may be admitted, which is, that a science, which has attracted the attention and been the study of such a considerable combination of ability for so many years, is certainly not unworthy the notice of every man of capacity and erudition.

The Rev. John Willis, B. A. published his treatise in 1621, which went through many editions in a short time. The title is Stenography, or Short-hand Writing by Spelling Characterics.

In the year 1635, Mr. Mawd published a new edition of this book, with some little improvement.

In the year 1647, Thomas Shelton published a system of short hand, called "Tachygraphy, or Short Writing the most easy, exact, and speedy;" and in 1695 he published another treatise, entitled, "Zeiglographia, or a new Art of Short Writing."

In the year 1669, Mr. Jeremiah Rich published his book, entitled "Semigraphiæ, or the World's Rarity;" this was much approved of for many years, and is mentioned by Mr. Locke in his treatise on Education, when recommending short hand as a necessary and useful accomplishment.

About

About thirty years afterwards, Mr. Nicholas made considerable improvements in this plan, and Mr. Addy and a Mr. Botley revised it, and made several alterations in the form and designation of the letters.

In the year 1707, Mr. William Mason published his edition of *La Plume Volante*, having previously published a treatise in 1672, called *A Pen plucked from an Eagle's Wing, &c.* and in 1694 another treatise, called *Art's Advancement.*

In 1715, Mr. Samuel Lane published his book, which he called *The Art of Short Hand made lineal as the common Hand.*

In 1727, Mr. John Weston published a book containing *above two hundred large octavo pages*, entitled *Stenography compleated, or the Art of Short Hand brought to Perfection.*

Sometime after, Aulay Macaulay, Esq. published his method of short hand under the title of *Polygraphy, or the Art of Short Hand made easy to the meanest Capacity*, which was followed by Mr. Annett's treatise, in which several improvements on Mr. Macaulay's system were apparent.

In

In 1753, Mr. Thomas Gurney published his *Brachygraphy, or Short Hand made easy to the meanest Capacity*, which was succeeded

In 1758, by Mr. John Angel's System of Short Hand, and

In 1762, by another, by Messieurs Swaine and Simns, the two last being improvements on Mr. Gurney, as he professedly improved on Mason.

In 1771, the *Universal Short Hand* made its appearance, written by the late Rev. John Byrom, M. A.

In 1774, an Improvement on the above was published by Mr. Palmer, and

In 1776, Mr. Williamson published a book, entitled *Stenography, or a concise and practical System of Short-Hand Writing.*

In 1779, Mr. William Blanchard, (since deceased,) published *A compleat System of Short Hand, an Improvement on all the Authors whose Systems have yet been made public.*

There are some more books on this subject which have not come under the notice of the Author of this Treatise,

tise, which are one by Holdsworth and Aldridge, one by a Mr. Taylor, price one Guinea, and another by the before-mentioned Mr. Blanchard, deceased, price also one Guinea, and the title of which is as the former was, *a complete System of Short Hand.* Mr. Joseph Gurney has also republished the treatise written by his father, with some few alterations.

Concerning the two treatises submitted to the Public by the Author of this Book, and which are now united, nothing is meant to be said; he will best shew his gratitude by making it his study, as it is his ambition, to merit a continuance of that approbation and preference which he has received, and for which he has already returned thanks.

The following alphabetical Arrangement of Contractions and symbolical characters are added for the greater ease of the Pupil; he will here find several of the former characters repeated, to affix them more in his memory, and each letter is likewise placed for certain words, which

are most frequently used. If a word from the common mode of joining should appear unpleasantly long, as will sometimes be the case, it will most likely be found in this arrangement; or if not, by using only the radical part of the word, much additional convenience may be acquired. *See plate No.* ~~V.~~ II.

A.

A, e, he, author-ity, another
ab, ob, abbreviate--ion, observe--ation--ance
able, ible
about
above
act of parliament
ad, advantage
after, af, if
against
agreement
already
alternative
all over the world
and
angel, alderman
ap, apprehend-sion, apostle
are, her, here, heir, repentance
ascend-ing, admiralty
assembly-bled

assets-

assets, saints
as it is
associations, society
attribute-ed

B.

Baptism, bishop, behold
been, believe, parliament, people
be, bee, begotten
behind
belong
below
between
beyond
blasphemy, backwards
bondage, benefit, bankrupt
both houses of parliament
break, broken
Britain, burgess

C.

Cab, cabinet
certainly, ascertain
character
ch, sh, she, such, chapter
charge, church, chr

Christ,

Christ, cross
circle, infinite
comprehend-sion
concern
conclude-sion
consistent, consequently
condition, circumstance
contradiction
contrary, chief
convenient, conveyance, contingency
country, candidate, convinced, course, see
cypher, nothing

D.

Declare
d, deliberate, did, degenerate
demonstrate-ion
descending
determination, defendant, doctrine
devil
diametrical
diametrically opposite to
different
divide-d-sion
difficult
double

E.

Each, either
England, neglect
especially, special
estate, ecclesiastical, eternal
example, exemplified
exercise
expeditious
extravagant, extraordinary
even, heaven
eyes

F.

fee simple
forth, long
for ever
foundation of the world
frequently, forfeiture
from one end of the world to the other
franchises

G.

Gentlemen, general
gentlemen of the jury
glory-ous

God, good
gospel
govern-or-ed-ment
grace
grief
ground

H.

Have, had, hither, hold
have been
he, author, another
heaven, even,
heirs
heirs of the body
hell, limitation, lord
her, are, heir, repentance
hereditaments
high, Jesus, ject
him, am, much, majesty, ment
house of commons
house of lords
hypocrite-sy, inseperable

I.

I am informed
Jehovah, ignorant-ance

Jesus,

Jesus, high, ject
illuminate-ion
immediate-ly, immortal-ity
impossible
improve, important-ance
in all probability
indefatigable, indefinite
independent-ce
indignation
individual
infinite, circle
information
inheritance, judicature
inseparable
interest
interrupt-ion
in the mean time
is it, sit
it is
judgment
justification

K.

Kingdom
———of God
———of Satan

 kingdom

kingdom of this world
———of England
———of Christ
knowledge

L.

Lab, labour, lib, liberty
large
lawful, illuminate
legislator-tive
likewise, lord, limitation, hell
literature
long, forth

M.

Magnify
magistrate-terial
mediator, in the middle
member
minister, manifest
misrepresent-ation
majesty, ment, much, him
multiply, multitude

N

Necessary, necessity
neglect, negligence, England

nego-

negotiations
neighbour
nevertheless
nobleman
nothing, only, other, cypher
nothing in the world, order
not only, notwithstanding

O.

Ob, observe-ation, ab, abbreviate-tion
oblige-ation
only, other, nothing, cypher
on the right hand
on the left hand
order, nothing in the world
ordinary-ly
over

P.

parallel
parliament, people
particular, property, purchase
perpendicular-ly
priest, preacher
principal, principle, privilege
philosophy-pher

proceeding, preceding, president, precedent
proof, performance
providence, probable
publication
pub-lic-lish-ly

Q.

Quality-fy-cation
question, quantity

R.

Reb, rebellion, rob
recollect-ion
remember, remainder
repentance, are, her, here, heir
religion
represented-ative
resolve-ution
round

S.

Sab, sabbath, sub-ordinate
sacrament-fice, satan,
salvation
sanctify-cation
satisfy-action, as it is

scatter-ed

scatter-ed
see, sea
self, seldom, shall, should
sessions of parliament
signify-cation
sit
society, associations
something, sometime
special, especially
spectacles
spirit, statute
stand, saint
subject-ion
such, ch, sh, she, scribe
successive-ly scripture
sufficient

T.

Take it for granted
temptation, attempt, tenant
that
therefore
thereabouts
think, thought, thank
this is
tob, to be
together

trans-

transgression
triangle, Trinity, tabernacle
trouble, trespass

U.

Under
undivided
uneven
unexceptionable
universal
unlawful-ness

W.

Westminster
whereabouts
wherefore
which
will be, would be
within, whatsoever
wonder, wisdom
word, ward
words of course
———limitation
———condition
———purchase
world without end, without
impeachment of waste

Ex-

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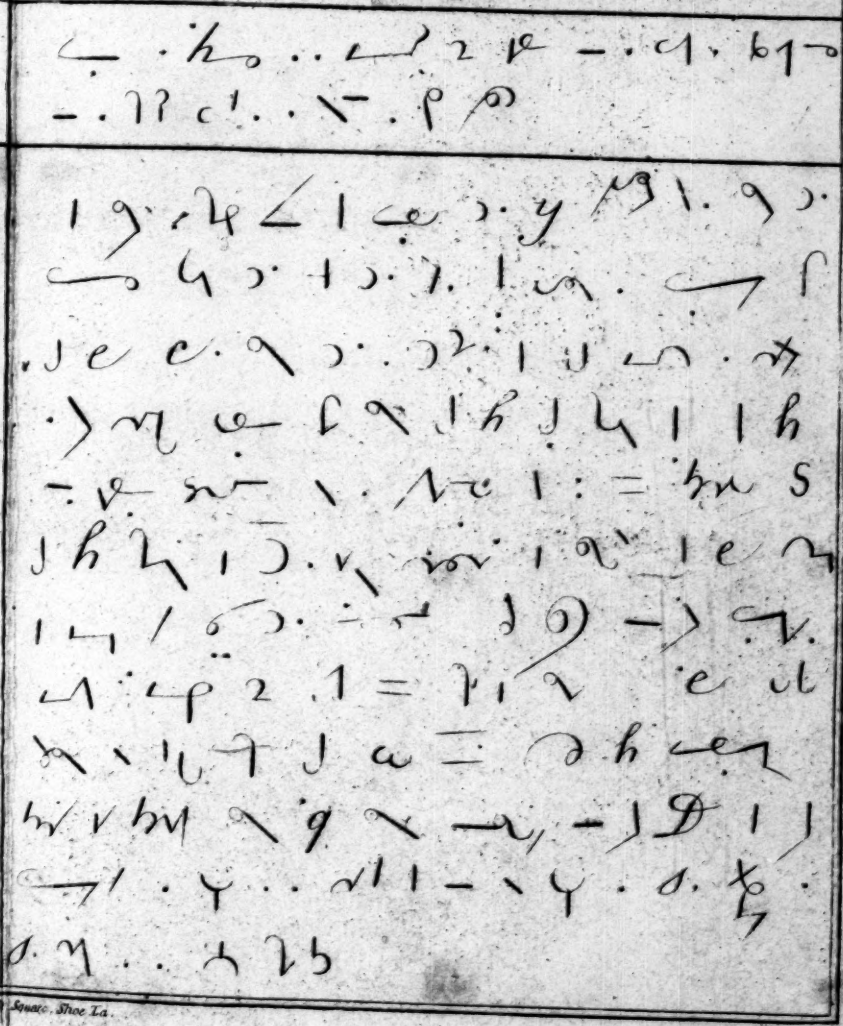
N.° 7.

N.° 8.



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X.

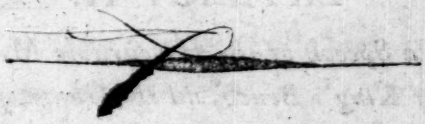
Extraordinary, extravagant

Y.

245 Young, youth
ye, yea, you

Z.

Zealous, zeal



The following Extracts are added by way of Specimen. (*See plate* 8.)

EXTRACT I.

From Lord Coke's Institutes, C. 1.

" Tenant in fee simple is he which hath lands or tene-
" ments to hold to him and his heirs for ever; and it is
" called in Latin *feodum simplex*, for *feodum* is the same
" that inheritance is, and *simplex* is as much as to say, as
" lawful or pure, and so *feodum simplex* signifies a lawful
" or pure inheritance: for if a man would purchase lands
" or tenements in fee simple, it behoveth him to have
" these words in his purchase, to have and to hold to him
" and to his heirs; for these words (his heirs) make
" the

" the estate of the inheritance, for if a man purchase
" lands by these words, to have and to hold for ever;
" or by these words, to have and to hold to him and
" his assigns for ever; in these two cases he hath but an
" estate for the term of life, for that there lack these words
" (his heirs) which words only make an estate of inheri-
" tance in all feofments and grants."

EXTRACT II.

Conclusion of a Speech of the Honourable Mr. Erskine, in the Court of King's Bench, in the Cause of the Dean of Saint Asaph.

" It was the first command and council to my youth,
" always to do what my conscience told me to be my
" duty, and to leave the consequences to God. I shall
" carry with me the memory, and I hope the practice of
" this parental lesson to the grave: I have hitherto fol-
" lowed it, and have no reason to complain that the ad-
" herence to it has been even a temporal sacrifice; I have
" found it on the contrary the road to prosperity and wealth,
" and shall point it out as such to my children. It is im-
" possible in this country to hurt an honest man, but, even
" if it were, I should little deserve that title, if I could
" upon any principle have consented to tamper or tem-
" porize with a question which involves in its determina-

" tion

" tion and its consequences the liberty of the press, " and in that liberty the very existence of every part " of the public freedom."

☞ Any purchaser of one of these books will be entitled to have any reasonable question answered, by sending a letter to the Author post paid.

THE END.

Trials at Law, Arguments of Counsel, Dramatic Pieces, Lectures Astronomical, Polemical, Philosophical, and Medical, &c. &c.

Correctly taken in SHORT-HAND by

E. HODGSON,

Author of this Treatise,

ELIM-PLACE, FETTER-LANE,

Who continues to teach this Art *in Four Lessons*, Price TWO GUINEAS.

Letters or Orders left for the Author as above, or at Mr. ST. JOHN'S, Bookseller, No. 49, Strand, will be duly attended to.